

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /105 W

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R 041552Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2037

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2375

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UN US UV

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: AIDES-MEMOIRE ON KOREA

AND PUERTO RICO

REF: A) STATE 178439 B) STATE 188804

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER KABORE ON AUG 3 TO DISCUSS KOREA AND PUERTO RICO PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO SUMMIT MEETING. DURING DISCUSSION, I EMPHASIZED THAT PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WERE VITAL ISSUES FOR THE US AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS. I LEFT WITH KABORE FRENCH VERSION OF AIDES MEMOIRE ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO AS AMENDED IN REF F, AS WELL AS FRENCH TEXT OF KOREAN PORTION SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF JULY 22.

2. AFTER READING AIDES-MEMOIRE AND PROMISING TO STUDY CAREFULLY SECRETARY'S SPEECH, KABORE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US POSITION ON BOTH QUESTIONS. HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT THERE WAS NO POINT FOR A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE UPPER VOLTA TO GET MIXED UP IN PROBLEMS ABOUT WHICH IT KNEW NEXT TO NOTHING. HE WISHED HE HAD TIME TO VISIT BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AS WELL AS PUERTO RICO. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PUERTO

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RICO HAD THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN AND

THAT, UNDER COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENTS, PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAD ADVANTAGE OF US CITIZENSHIP WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATEHOOD. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THEY WERE NOT ANXIOUS TO BE INDEPENDENT. HE MUSED THAT, AFTER HIS ATTENDANCE AT 31ST UNGA, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO.

3. REGARDING KOREA, KABORE SAID PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA WAS UNDOUBTEDLY GREAT IRRITANT FOR NORTH KOREANS. ON OTHER HAND, SOUTH KOREANS DID NOT WANT TO BECOME COMMUNISTS AND THEY, AFTER ALL, REPRESENTED TWO THIRDS OF KOREAN PEOPLE. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE DID NOT SEE HOW THERE COULD BE REUNIFICATION AND PERSONALLY FELT THAT BEST THAT COULD BE HOPED FOR, AT THIS POINT WAS MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, HOWEVER FRAGILE, ON PENINSULA.

4. KABORE AGAIN REMARKED THAT HE HATED THE IDEA OF PARTICIPATING IN COLOMBO NON ALIGNED MEETINGS. HE KNEW HE WOULD AGAIN BE SUBJECTED TO DREADFUL PRESSURES AND OFTEN WISHED THAT UPPER VOLTA HAD RECOGNIZED ONLY ONE KOREA.

5. COMMENT: KABORE DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF AND WAS CAREFUL IN ALL OF HIS REMARKS TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY. I LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT UPPER VOLTA MIGHT SUPPORT US ON PUERTO RICO AND REMAIN NEUTRAL ON KOREAN QUESTION. OUR DISCUSSION WAS TIMELY SINCE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOLTAN DELEGATION TO COLOMBO MEETINGS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING APPROVED TODAY BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.
GRAHAM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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